(b) whether, with the efforts non-resident Indians, Global Development Company of USA has proposed to invest a capital of more than Rs.6000 crores in the project, on lesser rate of interest, in comparision to earlier conditions wherein a mention of direct profit of Rs.3100 crores has been made;

(c) whether the company is asking for initial bank guarantee of about Rs.2000 crores for one year which is 1/3 of the total cost; and

(d) whether Central Government would find out any solution, is consultation with the State Government, with regard to the Bank Guarantee, which would in the form of safe keeping receipt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Government of Uttar Pradesh had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Pacific Electric Power Development Corporation for setting up the 400 MW Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project in Uttar Pradesh. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by the promoters to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on December 26, 1996 for techno-economic clearance has not been taken up for detailed scrutiny as the same is incomplete in regard to the tie-up of essential inputs and financing arrangements. As per the details furnished by the promoters in their DPR, Unit-I of the project would be commissioned in 40 months and Unit-II in 46 months from financial closure. The time by which the project is likely to become functional can be determined only after it achieves financial closure. The scheme would be considered for techno-economic clearance of CEA only after the pending inputs are tied up by the promoters. Details regarding the financial arrangements for the project would become available only after the promoters achieve financial closure and submit the firm financial package to CEA, with the recommendations of the State Government, for approval.

Setting up of Power Plants in Meghalaya

1480. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some power plants in Meghalaya during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has envisaged a capacity addition of 18 MW in the State of Meghalaya during the 9th Plan from Umiam Umttru HEP Stage-V. However, as per the mid-term review of MOP this project is likely to slip to the 10th Plan.

Recently Myntdu (Leska) HE Project State-I envisaging installation of 2×42 MW in the State of Meghalaya has been techno-economically cleared by CEA on 20.9.1999 at an estimated cost of Rs.363.08 crores including IDC of Rs.75.9 crores and financial cost of Rs.1.82 crores. The project is yet to be cleared by MOEF from environment and forests angle. The completion period of the project is 60 months from the date of investment sanction of Planning Commission.

Losses of CESCO in Orissa

1481. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Orissa Government had given distribution of electricity to private sector concerns like CESCO's and within two months of CESCO's take over. the super cyclone has threw the distribution system into disarray;

(b) whether they have suffered a massive loss of Rs.700 crores and they had not insured their services, till then; and

(c) whether CESCO would be allowed to raise the electricity tariff, to make good, the losses so suffered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The CESCO has not yet approached Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) for tariff revision in the wake of the losses suffered on account of the super cyclone. A view can be taken by OERC only after the CESCO applies for tariff revision.